



Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

— Making a positive difference through education and service —

April 25, 2005

*PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION
WITH YOUR HUMAN RESOURCES STAFF*

TO: School Administrators
Colleges of Education

FROM: Rusty Rosenkoetter, Director
Educator Certification

SUBJECT: Certification Changes for Administrators, Career Education, and Adult Education
and Literacy

Several rule changes, effective on April 30, 2005, will have an effect on educator certification and programs that provide support for professional development. Following are some of the changes and a brief explanation. Details will soon be available on our web-site.

- For **superintendents**, discontinued the 10-year Administrator II level of certification and replaced it with the four-year, Initial (superintendent) Administrator level of certification that requires one year of district-provided mentoring, completion of a total of 120 contact hours of professional development or eight semester hours of graduate credit; and successful participation in an annual performance-based evaluation.
- For **superintendents**, discontinued the 10-year Administrator II (advanced) level of certification and replaced it with the 99-year, Career Continuous Administrator certification that requires a one-time application fee of \$35 for individuals moving from the initial to the career level, participation in performance based evaluation and annual completion of 30 contact hours of professional development or two semester hours of graduate credit toward a doctorate degree in educational leadership. The superintendent becomes exempt from the professional development hour requirement upon obtaining two of the three following requirements:
 - 10 years of administrative experience;
 - has a doctorate degree or higher; or
 - passes a rigorous national certification approved by the State Board of Education.
- For **principals, special education directors and career education directors**, discontinued the 5-year Administrator I level of certification and replaced it with the four-year, Initial Administrator certification that requires two years of district-provided mentoring, completion of a total of 120 contact hours of professional development or eight semester hours of graduate credit, and successful participation in an annual performance-based evaluation.
- For **principals, special education directors and career education directors** who have completed their Initial certificate requirements are eligible for a Transitional certificate/license. It is a six-year license during which time the completion of an educational specialist degree or higher is required in the area of educational leadership, curriculum/instruction or reading/literacy. If the individual is not taking college courses toward the degree each year, 30 contact hours of professional development must be completed.
- For **principals, special education directors and career education directors**, discontinued the 10-year Administrator II level of certification and replaced it with the 99-year, Career Continuous Administrator certification that requires a one-time application fee of \$35 for individuals moving

from the initial/transitional to the career level, participation in performance based evaluation, and annual professional development of 30 contact hours or two semester hours of graduate credit. The administrator becomes exempt from the professional development hour requirement upon obtaining two of the three following requirements:

- 10 years of administrative experience;
 - has an education specialist's degree or higher; or
 - passes a rigorous national certification approved by the State Board of Education
- For **career education teachers**, discontinued the two- and five-year Vocational I and II levels of certification and replaced them with the four-year, Initial Career Education certificate that requires two years of district-provided mentoring, participation in a beginning teachers assistance program, completion of a total of 90 contact hours of professional development or six semester hours of graduate credit, and successful participation in an annual performance-based evaluation.
 - For **career education teachers**, discontinued the Vocational II and III levels of certification and replaced the with an ongoing Career Education Career Continuous certificate that requires a one-time application fee of \$35 for individuals moving the initial to the career level, participation in a performance-based evaluation program and 30 contact hours of professional development in the area of certification or 2 college credits. The career education teacher becomes exempt from professional development hour requirement upon obtaining two of the three following requirements:
 - 10 years of career education teaching experience;
 - has the next higher (master's) degree; or
 - passes a rigorous national certification approved by the State Board of Education.
 - For **adult education and literacy (AEL) teachers**, discontinued the AEL I level of certification and replaced it with the four-year, Initial AEL certificate that requires two years of district-provided mentoring, participation in a beginning teachers assistance program, completion of a total of 60 contact hours of professional development or four semester hours of graduate credit, and successful participation in an annual performance-based evaluation.
 - For **adult education and literacy teachers**, discontinued the AEL II level of certification and replaced it with an ongoing Career Continuous AEL certificate that requires a one-time application fee of \$35 for individuals moving the initial to the career level, participation in a performance-based evaluation program and 20 contact hours of professional development in the area of certification or two semester hours of graduate credit. The career continuous AEL teacher becomes exempt from professional development hour requirement upon obtaining two of the three following requirements:
 - 10 years of career education teaching experience;
 - has the next higher (master's) degree; or
 - passes a rigorous national certification approved by the State Board of Education.
 - **Temporary Authorization Certificate (TAC) for career education** may be issued to individuals who have not completed the necessary requirements for an Initial certificate of license to teach. The TAC requires annual district-provided mentoring, an annual performance-based evaluation and completion of six semester hours of coursework toward the career education certificate. The TAC may be renewed if the requirements are met.

A copy of the rules is available on the DESE web-site in the Educator Certification section. Also, you will find the *Compendium of Missouri Certification Requirements* that has been updated and contains specific language for each certification area. If you have questions about any of these numerous changes, please feel free to contact our office at 573/751-0051 or 573/751-3847. Detailed information will be available on our web-site at <http://dese.mo.gov> under educator certification.

We are currently undertaking revisions to the last classification area, student services, and anticipate changes to these areas by autumn.

/rr